

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0533

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, ECRE, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES SEVERAL NEW MAJOR PROJECTS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 0470 (B) KUWAIT 5172 (C) KUWAIT 5027

1. ON JAN 25 MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, HMOUD AL-NISF, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR SLATED FOR COMMENCEMENT IN FY75/76 WHICH BEGINS APRIL 1. SEVERAL OF THE PROJECTS DISCUSSED HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

2. HOUSING: HE ANNOUNCED CONSULTANTS FROM FIVE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT PLANS FOR 8000 LIMITED INCOME HOUSING UNITS TO BE BUILT OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, AND MENTIONED THAT "U.S. EXPERTS" WERE PREPARING DRAWINGS FOR 500 PILOT TWO-STORY LIMITED INCOME HOMES IN VILLAGE OF ABRAK KHITAN. HE INDICATED 18,000 FAMILIES WERE ON WAITING LIST FOR LIMITED INCOME HOUSING. COMMENT: THIS IN ADDITION TO FIVE CONSULTANTS INVITED TO DESIGN MIDDLE INCOME RESIDENCES AT EAST SULEIBIKHAT WHICH FIRST PHASE OF \$700 MILLION HOUSING PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES. END COMMENT.

3. RECREATION:

A) HE CONFIRMED OUR PREVIOUS REPORT THAT GOK PLANNING CONSTRUCT AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE NEAR DOHA AT THE SOUTHERN MOST POINT OF KUWAIT BAY WEST OF KUWAIT CITY. DIMENSIONS OF LAKE WERE GIVEN AS 8 KM LONG AND 7 KM WIDE. DOES NOT APPEAR THAT ANY CONSULTANT HAS

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YET BEEN CHOSEN FOR THIS PROJECT.

B) HE ANNOUNDED THAT A "GREEN AREA" FOR MOTELS AND RECREATIONAL CENTERS (PROBABLY INCLUDING A DISNEYLAND TYPE AMUSEMENT PARK) WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FROM AL-ZOUR HILLS, EXTENDING MIDWAY FROM THE NORTHERN SIDE OF KUWAIT BAY, DOWN TO JAHRA NEAR THE WESTERMOST POINT OF THE BAY. (SEE REF C)

C) KUWAIT WILL BUILD A BRIDGE LINKING BUBIYAN ISLAND WITH THE MAINLAND. BUBIYAN WILL BE DECLARED A NATIONAL PARK AND REFORESTED. COMMENT: THIS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF THIS PROJECT. END COMMENT.

4. PORTS: THE MAIN CARGO PORT OF KUWAIT WILL BE EXPANDED FROM 21 TO 42 BERTHS (SEE REF B). THE DUTCH CONSULTANT FREDERIC R. HARRIS, WHO DESIGNED THE MOST RECENT PORT EXTENSION, IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY WHICH IS DUE BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY. COMMENT: IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THAT HARRIS WILL DO THE DETAILED DESIGNS AND ENGINEERING FOR THE PORT'S EXPANSION AND U.S. FIRMS SHOULD BE KEPT ABREAST OF THIS PROJECT. MOREOVER, A PRIVATE COMPANY IS IN MIDST OF SELECTING A MARINE ARCHITECT TO BUILD A DRYDOCK FOR CARGO SHIPS AT SHUWEIKH. END COMMENT.

5. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, KUWAIT'S MAJOR PROJECTS BUDGET FOR THE FORTHCOMING DISCAL YEAR TOTALS KD235 MILLION OR ABOUT \$800 MILLION. OBVIOUSLY EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR FIRMS IN THE FIELDS OF TOWN PLANNING, MARINE ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, AND RECREATION AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT. ADDITIONALLY, ALMOST ALL THE WORK OUTLINED WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION FIRMS IN THESE RESPECTIVE FIELDS OR OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS IN THE CASE OF REFORESTATION PROGRAMS. COMMERCE MAY WISH MAKE THIS TELEGRAM AVAILABLE WIDE RANGE OF APPROPRIATE FIRMS.
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